

### REMARKS

Claims 1-12 are pending in the application. Claims 7 and 8 have been canceled, and claims 1-6 and 9-12 have been amended to remove multiple dependencies and informalities. New claims 13 and 14 have been added. Support for the new claims may be found in the claims as originally filed. No new matter has been added by the amendments. A first office action on the merits is awaited.

Dated: October 8, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

By: Patricia D. Granados  
Patricia D. Granados  
Reg. No. 33,683

HELLER EHRMAN WHITE & McAULIFFE LLP  
1666 K Street, N.W., Suite 300  
Washington, D.C. 20006  
(202) 912-2000  
Customer No. 26633